

STATE SENATOR • LIZ BRATER • 12TH DISTRICT

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# Brater Press Release



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## BRATER ANNOUNCES \$42K in DNR Grants

LANSING—State Sen. Liz Brater (D-Ann Arbor) today announced \$42,750 worth of grants from the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) for Washtenaw county projects to replace trees struck with Emerald Ash Borer.

“This is a tragic situation for our forests,” said Sen. Brater. “The loss of any species is sad occurrence, especially when it could have been prevented.”

Tree populations throughout the state have dwindled as a result of the invasion of the Emerald Ash Borer, a beetle that inhabits and kills Ash trees. The insect is assumed to have come to the United States by way of imported wood. Since it was identified in the state during the summer of 2002, Emerald Ash Borer has killed more than 15 million ash trees in southeast Michigan, Windsor, Ontario, northwest Ohio and northeast Indiana.

“These grants are key to maintaining the character of our cities,” said Sen. Brater. “One of the things that make this area great is the mix of urban culture and the presence of natural spaces. We need trees.”

The cities of Ann Arbor and Chelsea will receive \$20,000 and \$4,000, respectively, while Washtenaw county Parks and Recreation will receive \$18,750. The grants are administered by the DNR’s Urban and Community Forestry and Forest Health programs, funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service.

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*State Senator Brater represents Senate District 18 which includes the cities of Ann Arbor, Ypsilanti, and Chelsea, the Villages of Barton Hills and Dexter, and the following townships: Ann Arbor, Augusta, Dexter, Freedom, Lima, Lyndon, Northfield, Salem, Scio, Sharon, Superior, Sylvan, Webster and Ypsilanti. She is the minority vice chair of the natural Resources and Environmental Affairs Committee and the Agriculture, Forestry, and Tourism Committee.*

